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April 6, 1993

**APR 07 93**

Attorney General Dan Morales  
Opinion Committee  
P.O. Box 12548  
Austin, Texas 78711

**RQ-614**

Opinion Committee  
ack 5/3/93

Dear Attorney General Morales:

I am requesting a clarification of the law relating to the disclosure of social security numbers. The Texas Real Estate Commission has requested the social security number of a constituent, Mr. Jim Cerrato, who believes social security numbers are protected by the federal Privacy Act of 1974.

The Act appears to prohibit any state agency from denying an individual any right, benefit, or privilege provided by law because of his refusal to disclose his social security number. Mr. Cerrato disagrees with the Real Estate Commission's interpretation of section (b) as a stand-alone provision. He believes that (b) discusses the requirements for those occasions when an agency, under the exceptions listed in sections (a)(2), may require disclosure.

I would appreciate your opinion on this matter.

Yours very truly,

*Bill Ratliff*

William R. Ratliff  
Chairman, Senate Education Committee

**FILE #** RQ-00614-DN  
AL-19936-83  
**I.D.#** 19936 2261

cc: Texas Real Estate Commission  
Mr. Jim Cerrato